

Office of the Secretary of Labor

§5.31

construction, such benefits are includable in any Davis-Bacon wage determination. Illustrations, contained in paragraph (c) of this section, demonstrate some of the different types of wage determinations which may be made in such cases.

(b) Wage determinations of the Secretary of Labor under the act do not include fringe benefits for various classes of laborers and mechanics

whenever such benefits do not prevail in the area of proposed construction. When this occurs the wage determination will contain only the basic hourly rates of pay, that is only the cash wages which are prevailing for the various classes of laborers and mechanics. An illustration of this situation is contained in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) Illustrations:

Classes	Basic hourly rates	Fringe benefits payments				
		Health and welfare	Pensions	Vacations	Apprenticeship program	Others
Laborers	\$3.25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carpenters	4.00	\$0.15	.....	.....	.....	.....
Painters	3.90	.15	\$0.10	\$0.20	.....	.....
Electricians	4.85	.10	.15	.....	.....	.....
Plumbers	4.95	.15	.20	.....	\$0.05	.....
Ironworkers	4.60	.....	.....	.10	.....	.....

(It should be noted this format is not necessarily in the exact form in which determinations will issue; it is for illustration only.)

§5.31 Meeting wage determination obligations.

(a) A contractor or subcontractor performing work subject to a Davis-Bacon wage determination may discharge his minimum wage obligations for the payment of both straight time wages and fringe benefits by paying in cash, making payments or incurring costs for "bona fide" fringe benefits of the types listed in the applicable wage determination or otherwise found prevailing by the Secretary of Labor, or by a combination thereof.

(b) A contractor or subcontractor may discharge his obligations for the payment of the basic hourly rates and the fringe benefits where both are contained in a wage determination applicable to his laborers or mechanics in the following ways:

(1) By paying not less than the basic hourly rate to the laborers or mechanics and by making the contributions for the fringe benefits in the wage determinations, as specified therein. For example, in the illustration contained in paragraph (c) of §5.30, the obligations for "painters" will be met by the payment of a straight time hourly rate of not less than \$3.90 and by contributing not less than at the rate of 15 cents an hour for health and welfare benefits, 10 cents an hour for pensions, and 20 cents an hour for vacations; or

(2) By paying not less than the basic hourly rate to the laborers or mechanics and by making contributions for "bona fide" fringe benefits in a total amount not less than the total of the fringe benefits required by the wage determination. For example, the obligations for "painters" in the illustration in paragraph (c) of §5.30 will be met by the payment of a straight time hourly rate of not less than \$3.90 and by contributions of not less than a total of 45 cents an hour for "bona fide" fringe benefits; or

(3) By paying in cash directly to laborers or mechanics for the basic hourly rate and by making an additional cash payment in lieu of the required benefits. For example, where an employer does not make payments or incur costs for fringe benefits, he would meet his obligations for "painters" in the illustration in paragraph (c) of §5.30, by paying directly to the painters a straight time hourly rate of not less than \$4.35 (\$3.90 basic hourly rate plus 45 cents for fringe benefits); or

(4) As stated in paragraph (a) of this section, the contractor or subcontractor may discharge his minimum wage obligations for the payment of straight time wages and fringe benefits by a combination of the methods illustrated in paragraphs (b)(1) thru (3) of

§ 5.32

this section. Thus, for example, his obligations for “painters” may be met by an hourly rate, partly in cash and partly in payments or costs for fringe benefits which total not less than \$4.35 (\$3.90 basic hourly rate plus 45 cents for fringe benefits). The payments in such case may be \$4.10 in cash and 25 cents in payments or costs in fringe benefits. Or, they may be \$3.75 in cash and 60 cents in payments or costs for fringe benefits.

[30 FR 13136, Oct. 15, 1965]

§ 5.32 Overtime payments.

(a) The act excludes amounts paid by a contractor or subcontractor for fringe benefits in the computation of overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, and the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act whenever the overtime provisions of any of these statutes apply concurrently with the Davis-Bacon Act or its related prevailing wage statutes. It is clear from the legislative history that in no event can the regular or basic rate upon which premium pay for overtime is calculated under the aforementioned Federal statutes be less than the amount determined by the Secretary of Labor as the basic hourly rate (i.e. cash rate) under section 1(b)(1) of the Davis-Bacon Act. (See S. Rep. No. 963, p. 7.) Contributions by employees are not excluded from the regular or basic rate upon which overtime is computed under these statutes; that is, an employee’s regular or basic straight-time rate is computed on his earnings before any deductions are made for the employee’s contributions to fringe benefits. The contractor’s contributions or costs for fringe benefits may be excluded in computing such rate so long as the exclusions do not reduce the regular or basic rate below the basic hourly rate contained in the wage determination.

(b) The legislative report notes that the phrase “contributions irrevocably made by a contractor or subcontractor to a trustee or to a third person pursuant to a fund, plan, or program” was added to the bill in Committee. This language in essence conforms to the overtime provisions of section 7(d)(4) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as

29 CFR Subtitle A (7-1-08 Edition)

amended. The intent of the committee was to prevent any avoidance of overtime requirements under existing law. See H. Rep. No. 308, p. 5.

(c)(1) The act permits a contractor or subcontractor to pay a cash equivalent of any fringe benefits found prevailing by the Secretary of Labor. Such a cash equivalent would also be excludable in computing the regular or basic rate under the Federal overtime laws mentioned in paragraph (a). For example, the W construction contractor pays his laborers or mechanics \$3.50 in cash under a wage determination of the Secretary of Labor which requires a basic hourly rate of \$3 and a fringe benefit contribution of 50 cents. The contractor pays the 50 cents in cash because he made no payments and incurred no costs for fringe benefits. Overtime compensation in this case would be computed on a regular or basic rate of \$3.00 an hour. However, in some cases a question of fact may be presented in ascertaining whether or not a cash payment made to laborers or mechanics is actually in lieu of a fringe benefit or is simply part of their straight time cash wage. In the latter situation, the cash payment is not excludable in computing overtime compensation. Consider the examples set forth in paragraphs (c)(2) and (3) of this section.

(2) The X construction contractor has for some time been paying \$3.25 an hour to a mechanic as his basic cash wage plus 50 cents an hour as a contribution to a welfare and pension plan. The Secretary of Labor determines that a basic hourly rate of \$3 an hour and a fringe benefit contribution of 50 cents are prevailing. The basic hourly rate or regular rate for overtime purposes would be \$3.25, the rate actually paid as a basic cash wage for the employee of X, rather than the \$3 rate determined as prevailing by the Secretary of Labor.

(3) Under the same prevailing wage determination, discussed in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the Y construction contractor who has been paying \$3 an hour as his basic cash wage on which he has been computing overtime compensation reduces the cash wage to \$2.75 an hour but computes his costs of benefits under section 1(b)(2)(B) as \$1